of Functional Directors were vacant in the Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) for more than three years as on 28.2.2002.

(b) The Board of Directors as a whole is responsible for the efficient operation of a PSU. In case of vacancies of Chief Executives/ Directors, officiating arrangements are made by the administrative Ministries/Departments to maintain managerial functions and efficiency of the Company.

(c) Out of the seven posts, four are kept in abeyance, in two cases deputation is being considered and in one case a Search Committee has been set up to make the selection. Filling up of vacant Board level posts is a continuous process and is done in accordance with the prescribed procedure.

Assistance to NGOs promoting voluntary action for disabled in Gujarat

*497. DR. A. K. PATEL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the NGOs working on the Scheme to promote voluntary action for persons with disabilities in Gujarat;

(b) the assistance extended to such organizations since operation of the scheme; and

(c) the progress made, till date?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) 25 Non-Governmental Organizations have been assisted since the inception of the Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities in Gujarat. An amount of Rs. 315.71 lacs has been released as grant-in-aid to these organizations under this Scheme in the last three years.

(c) The Scheme has been helpful in providing facilities of education, training and rehabilitation services to the disabled in the State. Around 90,000 persons have benefited under the programmes funded under this Scheme during the last three years.

Legislation on assisted reproductive technique

*498. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering a proposal to

bring forward a legislation on assisted reproductive technique to help the issueless couples to have their progeny;

(b) if so, the details of the proposed legislation;

(c) whether the legal, medical, moral, social and psychological aspects of having children with artificial methods have been carefully considered and necessary care provided for in the draft legislation and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by when, the new law is likely to be put in place?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. P. THAKUR): (a) to (d) There is no proposal to bring forward a legislation on assisted reproductive technologies.

Persons affected by Sardar Sarovar Project

*499. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for amending the SC/ST list of Gujarat for accommodating the persons affected by Sardar Sarovar Project who came from Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra has been pending since long;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay; and

(c) by when Government would finally modify the list so that project affected persons begin to get the benefits meant for SCs/STs in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) A proposal for amending the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for Gujarat to meet the need of the Project Affected Persons (PAPs) of Sardar Sarovar Project from Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra has been processed as per modalities approved by Government. The Constitution (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2002, on the subject was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 08.03.2002. A notice for consideration and passing of the said Bill in Lok Sabha has been given on 18.03.2002. The amendment will be given effect to as soon as the Bill is passed by the Parliament.